

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (previously presented) A frame element for a monopolar stack, comprising:  
  
a plurality of recesses for receiving ribs of plate elements arranged to form a stack, and/or  
  
a plurality of perforations for passing therethrough ribs of plate elements which are arranged to form a stack.
2. (previously presented) A frame element according to claim 1, comprising perforations for passing therethrough ribs of the plate elements arranged to form a stack, wherein the frame element is provided at one side with a structure which is electrically conductive in portions and which supports a monopolar wiring of the plate elements arranged to form the stack.
3. (previously presented) A frame element (20; 220) according to claim 2, wherein the structure (25; 225) which is electrically conductive in portions comprises a regular pattern.
4. (previously presented) A frame element according to claim 2, comprising:  
  
a printed circuit board on which the structure is formed that is electrically conductive in portions.
5. (previously presented) A frame element according to any claim 1, comprising:  
  
mounting means for two end plates which complete the stack of plate elements at both sides.

6. (previously presented) A frame element according to any one of claim 1, comprising at least one channel for fluid conduction along a stack axis of the monopolar stack.
7. (previously presented) A method for producing a fuel cell stack, comprising the steps of:  
  
arranging plate elements in a stack arrangement;  
  
pre-tensioning the plate elements;  
  
laterally attaching frame elements according to claim 1 on the stack so that the recesses and/or the perforations of the frame elements receive ribs of the plate elements;  
  
offsetting the pretension.
8. (previously presented) A method according to claim 7, wherein prior to the offsetting of the pretension the ribs of the plate elements are soldered with the frame elements.
9. (previously presented) A frame element according to claim 3, comprising:  
  
a printed circuit board on which the structure is formed that is electrically conductive in portions.
10. (previously presented) A frame element according to claim 2, comprising:  
  
mounting means for two end plates which complete the stack of plate elements at both sides.
11. (previously presented) A frame element according to claim 3, comprising:

mounting means for two end plates which complete the stack of plate elements at both sides.

12. (previously presented) A frame element according to claim 4, comprising:

mounting means for two end plates which complete the stack of plate elements at both sides.

13. (previously presented) A frame element according to claim 2, comprising at least one channel for fluid conduction along a stack axis of the monopolar stack.

14. (previously presented) A frame element according to claim 3, comprising at least one channel for fluid conduction along a stack axis of the monopolar stack.

15. (previously presented) A frame element according to claim 4, comprising at least one channel for fluid conduction along a stack axis of the monopolar stack.

16. (previously presented) A frame element according to claim 5, comprising at least one channel for fluid conduction along a stack axis of the monopolar stack.

17. (previously presented) A method for producing a fuel cell stack, comprising the steps of:

arranging plate elements in a stack arrangement;

pre-tensioning the plate elements;

laterally attaching frame elements according to claim 2 on the stack so that the recesses and/or the perforations of the frame elements receive ribs of the plate elements;

offsetting the pretension.

18. (previously presented) A method for producing a fuel cell stack, comprising the steps of:

arranging plate elements in a stack arrangement;

pre-tensioning the plate elements;

laterally attaching frame elements according to claim 3 on the stack so that the recesses and/or the perforations of the frame elements receive ribs of the plate elements;

offsetting the pretension.

19. (previously presented) A method for producing a fuel cell stack, comprising the steps of:

arranging plate elements in a stack arrangement;

pre-tensioning the plate elements;

laterally attaching frame elements according to claim 4 on the stack so that the recesses and/or the perforations of the frame elements receive ribs of the plate elements;

offsetting the pretension.

20. (previously presented) A method for producing a fuel cell stack, comprising the steps of:

arranging plate elements in a stack arrangement;

pre-tensioning the plate elements;

laterally attaching frame elements according to claim 5 on the stack so that the recesses and/or the perforations of the frame elements receive ribs of the plate elements;

offsetting the pretension.